

You claim Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary is simply free speech. Your job, as FCC, is not to rule on the First Amendment, but to verify that broadcast conglomerates adhere to the rules of fair play by which they are required to remain neutral. Rules are pretty clear that air time given to consider one candidate must be matched by equivalent air time devoted to others. The shabby excuse that bias qualifies so long as some executive calls it news is unconscionable. Our country is in a lot of trouble if regulators become as partisan as the executives who appoint them.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Randal Gardner